

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Krichim-Devin Road	DATE DISTR.	6 August 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	640907 25X1
This is UNEVALUATED			

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The road from Krichim (N 42-02, E 24-28) to Devin (N 41-44, E 24-24) is 57 kilometers long. Its average width is 13 feet, including shoulders where they exist. Narrower sections are provided with frequent unsurfaced off-road parking areas to enable comparatively easy passing. 25X1
2. The road leads out of Krichim on the west bank of the Krichim River (also known as the Vucha River). Seven kilometers south of Krichim (at N 41-59-30), it crosses the river by a masonry arch bridge 50 feet long and 12 feet wide. After a further seven kilometers (at N 41-56-30, E 24-27-10), a similar bridge returns the road to the west bank. Both bridges are approached from either end by a right-angled bend. Eleven kilometers farther on (at N 41-54-05, E 24-26-35), a temporary bridge (10 tons) carries the road across a small tributary (the Krachinska). At a point 27 kilometers south of Mikhalkovo (N 41-51, E 24-26) (at N 41-53-20, E 24-25-45), a masonry arch bridge 70 feet long and 12 feet wide (the most vital bridge on the route) carries the road to the east bank. Again the bridge is approached from either end by right-angled curves. There are bad patches of road surface for five kilometers from a point six kilometers south of Mikhalkovo and again for a further two kilometers between 15 and 16 kilometers south of Mikhalkovo. Repair work is under way at both places. Nineteen kilometers south of Mikhalkovo (at N 41-44-15, E 24-25-15), the road forks west to Devin (two kilometers), crossing the river by means of a wooden board bridge resting on wooden trestles.
3. Although the surface of the road is generally good and its width permits two-way traffic in most places, it is a "slow" road because of the unusual number of curves (the road follows the tortuous contours of the river for most of the way), and because of the steep drops and the danger from falling boulders and landslides. Nevertheless, it is regularly used and negotiated, apparently safely, by large lumber trucks and 30-40 seat buses. Most of the surrounding steep mountainsides are well wooded with small trees. This is ideal ambush country. In the middle of the winter, this road is presumably passable only to horse- or ox-drawn sledges. A snow plow is stationed at Mikhalkovo.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC				
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25X1

Approach to Krichim from the Sofia-Plovdiv Highway

4. Approximately 20 kilometers west of Plovdiv (at N 42-09-30, E 24-33-30), a road branches south to Gara Krichim (three kilometers, Yoakim Gruevo, N 42-08, E 24-33), Kurtovo Konare (nine kilometers, N 42-05, E 24-30), and Krichim (16 kilometers). One kilometer south of the Sofia-Plovdiv road, the road to Krichim crosses the Maritsa River by means of a steel trestle through-type bridge approximately 350 feet long and 12 feet wide, immediately before passing through Polatovo village (N 42-09, E 24-33). At Gara Krichim there is a level crossing, and five kilometers south of Gara Krichim, the road crosses the Peshtera-Plovdiv road. From the Sofia-Plovdiv road as far as the southern exit from Kurtovo Konare, the road is paved with stone paving blocks (a total distance of 11 kilometers). Thereafter, the surface is of earth-bound gravel. The width throughout is 12 feet, plus earth shoulders of three feet on either side.

Road to Smolyan

5. At the road fork two kilometers east of Devin, a signpost beside the road which leads first south and then southeast indicates Stoikite (N 41-40, E 24-39) as being 24 kilometers distant and Smolyan (N 41-35, E 24-41) as 42 kilometers distant.

25X1

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